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Sustainable systems for urban trees

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“Sustainability in urban landscapes can be improved when environmental benefits are clearly identified and the demands for energy and other resources are addressed on a long-range basis” (Perry, 1995)

Definitions

- *“Meet the needs of today's population without diminishing the ability of future populations to meet their needs”*
- *“Maintaining healthy and functional vegetation and associated systems that provide long-term benefits desired by the community”* Dwyer, Nowak, & Noble 2003

Proposed goals in order to develop and maintain sustainable landscapes; (from Perry, 1995)

- Landscapes that conserve, recycle, and reuse resources to achieve optimum levels of sustainability.
- Increased levels of conservation and efficiency in energy use.
- Incorporate principles of water conservation and optimal use of reclaimed water resources.
- Landscapes that achieve optimum levels of biomass storage
- Comprise of associations of plants having similar climate, water, soil, and maintenance needs.
- Attain optimum levels of micro-climate benefits to reduce urban heat build-up and energy demand for heating and cooling.
- Incorporate organic soil management practices.
- Minimal use of inorganic fertilisers, herbicides, and pesticides.
- Landscapes that are supportive of wildlife, biotic diversity, and significant biotic resources.

McPherson (1995) puts forward the following strategies to increase net benefits from trees in the urban forest;

- *Select the right tree for each location.*
- *Weigh the desirability of controlling initial planting costs with the need to provide growing environments suitable for healthy, long-lived trees.*
- *Plan for long-term tree care.*



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